

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 28, 2006 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Election provisionally elects Group I, with traverse.

The Examiner has indicated that the present invention includes three distinct inventions, namely Group I, as set forth in claims 1-9, directed to a vent pipe flashing; Group II, as set forth in claims 10-16, directed to a method of manufacturing a vent pipe flashing; and Group III, as set forth in claims 17 and 18, directed to a kit for manufacturing a vent pipe flashing. Applicant requests that this restriction requirement be withdrawn for the following reasons.


In particular, Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement with respect to Groups I, II and III. Applicant believes that the vent pipe flashing (described in claims 1-9), the method of manufacturing the vent pipe flashing (described in claims 10-16), and the kit for manufacturing the vent pipe flashing (described in claims 17 and 18) are so closely related, that a complete search of one invention must necessarily include a search of the other. Consequently, it is submitted that there can be no significant burden on the Examiner for maintaining these three distinct inventions in a single application.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination of all pending claims 1-18 in Groups I, II, and III. Further, Applicant reserves the right to file, at a later time, a divisional application directed to the non-elected inventions. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b), there is no change in inventorship as a result of this election.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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